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## INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

FOREIGN SHIPPING TO NORTH VIETNAM IN AUGUST 1965



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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE  
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FOREIGN SHIPPING TO NORTH VIETNAM IN AUGUST 1965

Foreign shipping to North Vietnam in August was highlighted by a sharp decrease in the number of arrivals of Free World ships, a sharp increase in arrivals of Chinese Communist ships, and an almost complete halt in exports of apatite. The low number of calls by Free World ships was caused mainly by the lack of apatite cargoes. Calls by all foreign merchant ships at North Vietnamese ports in August 1965 totaled 36, compared with 38 in July and with a monthly average of 46 thus far this year, as follows:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Monthly Average January-August</u>
Total	<u>38</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>46</u>
Communist countries	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>21</u>
USSR	7	7	7
Eastern Europe	4	3	4
Communist China	6	14	10
Free World	<u>21</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>25</u>

The volume of identified exports of seaborne cargoes through North Vietnamese ports dropped sharply in August to a level less than 60 percent of the average monthly volume for the first half of this year. This drop was due mainly to the lack of apatite at the port of export, which, in turn, was caused by the destruction in July of portions of the rail line from the mines at Lao Cai to Haiphong. No ships have loaded apatite since early August, and there is no indication that the North Vietnamese authorities have begun to reschedule shipments of apatite.

The volume of identified seaborne imports dropped sharply in August. Imports of fertilizers and petroleum were far below average, and imports of grain and other bulk foodstuffs were negligible. There may have been such cargoes aboard the Chinese Communist arrivals, but no cargo information is available. No seaborne shipments in August were identified as either arms or ammunition.

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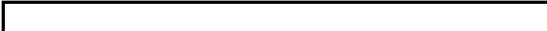
No Lebanese-flag ships have called at North Vietnam since the Lebanese Government passed prohibitive legislation in June. Japanese ships have also remained out of trade with North Vietnam since late March in accordance with restrictive resolutions adopted by Japanese shipowners and seamen's unions.

I. Free World Shipping

Free World ships made only 12 calls at North Vietnamese ports in August. This number is less than half the monthly average of calls by Free World ships this year and is the lowest number for any month since April, when only eight Free World ships visited North Vietnam.

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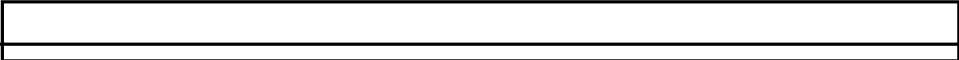


The principal reason for the decline in calls by Free World ships was the lack of apatite available for shipment due to the destruction in July of portions of the rail line over which the apatite is carried from the mines at Lao Cai to Haiphong. In July, 

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The Lebanese Government is effectively enforcing the prohibition it established in June against operations by Lebanese-flag ships in the Gulf of Tonkin. 

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Japanese-flag ships continued to abstain from trade with North Vietnam in accordance with a prohibition adopted by Japanese shipowners and seamen's unions in late March of this year.

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